



MSA Newsletter

A newsletter for Member Schools of Marist Schools Australia published fortnightly during term time



From Brother Michael Green

11 March 2014

Dear Brothers, Colleagues and Friends

It's not really a post-modern notion, the concept of *cantus firmus*. But neither is it an idea whose time has passed. At least Andrew Lloyd Webber wouldn't think so; his musicals are often held together by it.

In case you're a little dusty on your musical history, permit me to explain that the *cantus firmus* was a composition technique that became common when polyphonic sacred music began to emerge from plain chant in the eleventh century. It was a way of giving a piece of music an anchor, an integrity, a unity – a sort of insurance against beautiful polyphony's descending into discordant cacophony. Whatever the trills and thrills through which voices and instruments might wander in a complex musical score, they could be brought back to an underlying, constant, and familiar melody. The augmentations to the score then didn't lose their way, or become so caught up in themselves that they lost touch with the fundamental movement or purpose of the piece. As the centuries went on, it was often that a popular secular song might be chosen for the *cantus firmus* – something sure and well-known.

Our pluralist, rapid-change, post-modern culture can lack much sense of *cantus firmus*; indeed, it may reject the very notion. Relativism prevails. The result can be confused and confusing, especially for young people. We can get absorbed by the immediate, the now, the pressing. Our energies, our imagination and even our values can be hijacked by the latest and most dominant people or issues in our lives.

Lent affords us an opportunity to go back to our primary songline, to renew our connection with what really sustains us and gives our lives direction. Jesus Christ is our *cantus firmus*: God-with-us, love incarnate.

Sometimes, we need others to sound the melody our *cantus firmus* for us, because we cannot hear it above the din of our living. Pope Francis is playing that role for the Church, calling her back, humbly but unambiguously, to what is really essential. As educators, we have the opportunity to do the same for the young people in our care. A worthy Lenten challenge.

Nisi Dominus

Brother Michael Green FMS

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

COMING UP...

13 Mar MSA Regional Council Meeting, Brisbane
 13-14 Mar MSA Regional Council Meeting, Melbourne
 14 Mar MSA Regional Council Meeting, Sydney
 16-19 Mar Footsteps 1 programme, Mittagong
 20 Mar In the Champagnat Way, Sacred Heart College Middle School, SA
 21 Mar In the Champagnat Way, St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas
 21 Mar In the Champagnat Way, Trinity Catholic College Lismore

23-25 Mar National Marist Faith Formators' Colloquium, Mittagong
 26-27 Mar Marist Youth Ministry Leaders' Retreat, Mittagong
 31 Mar #serve program, Marist College North Shore
 7 Apr QLD/VIC/NT School Holidays Begin
 8 Apr #serve program, Trinity College Beenleigh
 11 Apr-3 May Marist Pilgrimage 2014
 14 Apr NSW/SA/WA/ACT School holidays start

REFURBISHMENTS AT MARIST CENTRE MELBOURNE

After much planning and anticipation, the builders commenced work today on refurbishment of the Marist Centre Melbourne. This project was delayed from last year in order that, first, we could secure a long-term lease on the property from the Archdiocese (now in place) and also so that we could revise the scope of works to something that was less expensive. The work will take place in stages over the next six months. During this time, we will continue to use the Centre, but we occupants and the builders will work around each other. Some meetings and other events will need to be relocated at different times. The result will be, we are confident, a useable, hospitable, simple and contemporary place from which to base Marist life and ministries in Melbourne. The Centre currently accommodates Marist Schools Australia, members of the MLF and AMC teams, Marist Youth Ministry, Marist Youth Care, Marist Music, Bruce Houghton (health and aged care), and we also sub-let space to Mary Aikenhead Education.

LAVALLA: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



The first issue of Lavalla, the staff journal of our Marist schools, is due for publication at the start of next term. The cut-off date for contributions is Friday, 11th April. It is always good to have a cross-section of schools represented in each publication. Short pieces, or even just photos with a short caption or explanation are welcome. All photographs should be jpg. quality and include the names of those in the photos. In addition, Lavalla

carries reports from MYM, MSol, Marist Youth Care, MLF and all of our ministries.

Our academic journal, Champagnat, is now co-published with Lavalla. Papers for the Champagnat journal should be approximately 3000 words in length and preference is given to those papers with a Marist theme or connection. Have you written something for a masters course, for example, that might also be suitable for publication in our journal? All contributions should be sent to tony.paterson@marists.org.au.

PRINCIPALS' GATHERING AT MITTAGONG



L-R: Peter Houlahan (Marist-Sion College Warragul), Br Paul Creevey (St Teresa's Catholic College Noosaville), Mark Stower (Mt Maria College Mitchelton)

Today and tomorrow the Principals of our 50+ Marist schools from around Australia are meeting at The Hermitage, Mittagong, for their biennial conference. Every second year they gather as a Province-wide group of Principals, while in the alternate years they join with other members

of their leadership teams for the much bigger Australian Marist Schools Conference.

As is custom now, the 2014 Conference is a mixture of formation, discussion of current priorities and directions, and also a time to enhance everyone's mutual knowledge and collegiality as Marist leaders. A major activity of the Conference is a workshopping of the recent doctoral dissertation of Jennifer Elvery from Marist College Ashgrove. Jennifer looked at the potential and the challenges

for those in middle leadership roles (e.g. heads of department, heads of house, year-level pastoral coordinators) to lead in a Marist way. A second major topic of discussion, to which two sessions are being devoted this afternoon, is the launch this year of the *Marist Association of St Marcellin*, the new canonical entity to which Australian Marists will be invited to join.



L-R: Chris Morrissey (Marist College Canberra), Brenda King (St Francis de Sales Regional College Leeton), Alison Gallio (Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre Santa Teresa)

The Conference Mass will be led this evening by Father Gary Perritt CP. During the Eucharist, there will be the formal induction of St Francis de Sales Regional College, Leeton, to membership of Marist Schools Australia, following a three-year process of focused discernment. It will be a wonderful moment to welcome Leeton back to the Marist family.



L-R: Diarmuid O'Riordan (St Peter Clover College Riverview), Ross Tarlinton (St Joseph's College Hunters Hill), Br Darren Burge (St Augustine's College Cairns), Mark Murphy (Marcellin College Bulleen)

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY FOR COLLEGE LEADERS OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S COLLEGE HAMILTON

The Commissioning Ceremony for College Leaders of St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton, was held on 13 February 2014 at the Civic Theatre. The 2014 College Captain, Olivia Carroll and Joel Webber both inspired their peers and teachers alike with some words of young wisdom around the #serveoneanother theme. Here is an excerpt from Olivia's speech:

I would like to finish my speech today with a significant word I learnt in term three last year while I was in Mittagong on a Marist Youth camp. Ubuntu. Ubuntu is a famous African philosophy which means: "I am who I am because of who we all are"

In the words of Nelson Mandela: "Ubuntu speaks particularly about the fact that you can't exist as a human being in isolation. It speaks about our interconnectedness." Mandela describes how "We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another" when in fact we are connected and what we do in a sense affects those around us. So I guess on a much smaller scale- this is particularly relevant to life here within the St Francis Xavier college community. Year 11 and 12 we are all bound here together in ways which are invisible to the eye, there is a unique oneness and cohesion prominent within our college. Keeping Ubuntu and this year's theme in mind, let us # serve each other by encouraging, motivating and working together to help one another be the best we possibly can in 2014. Because in the end, I am who I am and you are who you are because of everyone around us. (Olivia Carroll, 2014 Captain SFX)



2014 College Captains, Olivia Carroll and Joel Webber with Mr Ray Collins, (Director Catholic Schools Office, Maitland-Newcastle Diocese), and Br Robert Sutton, Principal, St Francis Xavier's College, Hamilton.

IN THE CHAMPAGNAT WAY: NEW STAFF INDUCTION PROGRAMME Newman College, Churchlands WA

Photo of new staff who completed In the Champagnat Way: New Staff Induction at Newman College, Churchlands, WA with Br Michael Akers who facilitated the day, assisted by Br Terry Orrell and Jocelyn Hansen.



NATIONAL MARIST FAITH FORMATORS' COLLOQUIUM

A reminder that the *National Marist Faith Formators' Colloquium* is being held at The Hermitage, Mittagong from 23-25 March 2014. Registrations are to be made online through the [MSA website](#). For all other inquiries, please contact Carole Wark at carole.wark@marists.org.au

NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



Charlene spent four years as a Senior Copywriter in a boutique advertising agency before being headhunted to join Regional Express as the Corporate Communications Manager in 2004. She left in 2007 to take a 'break' from the corporate world to run a family-owned café in Broadway. It was a break that led Charlene to working full-time for the Church in Singapore, first in a

Franciscan parish with the Youth and Young Adults Office and then back to Sydney with the Parish Support Unit in the Bishop's Office of the Diocese of Broken Bay.

#serve
oneanother

CANBERRA SHOWS SUPPORT FOR MSOL AT LAUNCH



Michael Coleman speaking with two ex-students of Marist College Canberra, Josh Thomson and MVA Volunteer, Liam Highmore at the MSol launch.

Monday March 5th saw Br Allen Sherry and Michael Coleman meeting and greeting over 50 Marists in Canberra at the MSol Launch. It was a great chance to catch up with the staff, students and parents as well one of our volunteers heading off on a volunteering experience with MVA in July.

The exhibition was set in the staffroom overlooking the sports ovals of the College with drinks and food served by staff and students. Mr Chris Morrissey, Acting Headmaster, addressed the group before the College Captain introduced Br Allen and Michael. Br Allen introduced MSol for the first time in Canberra and thanked the Marists gathered for their support throughout 2013. He also outlined three projects in need of support in 2014 and the changes that support from Marists across Australia will make possible.



The MSol Team wish to thank Marist College Canberra for hosting our first public event in the region and Nathan Ahearne especially for organising the launch.

For more information on Marist Solidarity and the work that we support please call 07 3354 0600 or email msol@marists.org.au.

Br Brian Kinsella fms
MSol Team – Brisbane



REMAR UPDATE: OUR RECRUITMENT SESSIONS

The Remar Ministry Team is just over a month into the new year and we have already completed the majority of the Blue and Gold Embarkation Camps, and now our main focus has been the recruitment sessions and Red Embarkations for new year 10 students. Recruitment is a chance for the students to hear what Remar is about and if they would like Remar to be an important aspect in their lives. The recruitment is a session where members of the Remar Ministry Team will go to a school and work with Year 10 students, promoting the core values of Remar. We have videos and multiple activities about leadership, plus we share about our own experiences of Remar, in order to generate interest within prospective students. At the end they have the opportunity to sign up and get involved in their first Red Embarkation camp, and potentially join the Remar program. Many students grasp this opportunity and it's really great to see their excitement about Remar. In more recent times, interest has been growing in Remar and many of our recruitment sessions and embarkation camps have seen a growth in numbers, creating an even stronger program in Remar for those schools involved!

Ashley Cipriani and Connor Bradley

